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MISCELLANEA.

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I.—The Amended Tariff of 1860.

WE copy from the *Economist* newspaper of 22nd September, 1860, the following convenient summary of the amended British Tariff of 1860:—

"Now that the simplified Tariff enacted in the Session of 1860, has been brought into full operation under the Act 23 and 24 Vict., cap. 110, 28th August, 1860, entitled 'An Act to Consolidate the Duties of Customs,' our readers will be glad to have this tariff presented to them in a concise and classified shape. Till this year (1860), Customs duties were levied on about 150 principal articles, most of them subdivided in the tariff into further different heads, so that 408 articles were separately chargeable with duty. Now, as will be seen, the articles liable to duty may all be reduced under twelve principal divisions,—and in reality under ten only; since one division contains merely those duties which are required to countervail those laid by the Inland Revenue on the same commodities produced at home, and those contained in another will cease and determine in eighteen months or less. We here give the remaining ten principal divisions, which thus properly constitute the Customs Tariff of Great Britain, with the amount of duty received under each of them in the year 1859.

	<i>£</i>
I.—Fermented Liquors	4,425,000
II.—Sugar	6,285,000
III.—Tobacco	5,574,000
IV.—Tea	5,409,000
V.—Coffee	431,000
VI.—Cocoa	15,000
VII.—Grain and Flour	533,000
VIII.—Fruit	565,000
IX.—Timber	615,000
X.—Pepper	111,000
	<hr/>
	23,963,000

AMENDED TARIFF.—23 & 24 Vict., chap. 110.—28th August, 1860.

I.—Fermented Liquors.

	<i>£ s. d.</i>
1. Beer and Ale	1 - - per barrel.
2. Chloroform	- 3 - per lb.
3. Essence of Spruce	10 - - per hundred.

I.—*Fermented Liquors—contd.*

	£ s. d.
4. Varnish containing spirits	— 12 — per gallon.
5. Vinegar	— — 3 "
Pickles in Vinegar	— — 1 "
6. Brandy, Geneva, Rum from non-producing countries, unenumerated plain Spirits	— 10 5 "
7. Rum and similar Spirits from producing countries, Rum-Shrub, and other Liqueurs from India and the Colonies	— 10 2 "
8. Perfumed Spirits, Eau-de-Cologne, Mixed and Sweetened Spirits unenumerated	— 14 — "
9. Wine, and Lees of Wine, (<i>foreign</i>), till December 31, 1860	— 3 — "
Wine thereafter, if containing less than 18 degrees of proof spirit	— 1 — "
Less than 26 degrees	— 1 9 "
Less than 40 "	— 2 5 "
Less than 45 "	— 2 11 "
If in bottles, and containing less than 40 degrees spirit	— 2 5 "
Wine, and Lees of Wine (<i>colonial</i>)	— 2 9 and 5 per cent.

" N.B.—All *Wine* containing 45 per cent. of proof spirits, to be charged as spirits.

II.—*Sugar.*

1. Sugar Candy and refined	— 18 4 per cwt.
2. White clayed	— 16 — "
3. Yellow Muscovado	— 13 10 "
4. Brown Muscovado	— 12 8 "
5. Cane Juice or Malado	— 10 4 "
6. Molasses	— 5 — "
Succades and Confectionary	— — 2 per lb.

III.—*Tobacco.*

1. Unmanufactured	— 3 — per lb.
2. Manufactured and Cigars	— 9 — "
3. Snuff	— 6 — "

With 5 per cent. thereon.

IV.—*Tea.*

1. Tea	— 1 5 per lb.
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V.—*Coffee.*

1. Green Coffee.....	— — 3 ,,
2. Kiln-dried, washed, or ground	— — 4 ,,
3. Raw or dried Chicory	— 6 — per cwt.
4. Roasted or ground Chicory	— — 4 per lb.

VI.—*Cocoa.*

1. Raw Cocoa	— — 1 per lb.
2. Cocoa Paste or Chocolate	— — 2 ,,
3. Cocoa Shells or Husks.....	— 2 — per cwt.

VII.—*Corn and Grain.*

	<i>L.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>
1. Wheat and all Grain*	— 1 — per quarter.
2. Flour and Meal of all sorts	— — 4½ per cwt.

VIII.—*Fruit.*

1. Dried, but not succades or preserves	— 7 — per cwt.
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IX.—*Timber.*

1. Hewn Timber, Firewood, Lathwood, Staves under 72 inches in length, Teak-wood, other woods for shipbuilding	— 1 — per load.
2. Wood (sawn or split), hoops, shovel hilts, staves exceeding 72 inches in length	— 2 — , ,
3. Furniture and hard woods	— 1 — per ton.
4. Foreign-built Ships	— 1 — , ,

X.—*Duties to countervail Excise Duties.*1. *Paper.*

Brown paper, stained paper, waste paper, mill boards, books since 1801, prints	— 16 — per cwt.
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Paste board, colonial and other privileged books, colonial prints	— 15 — , ,
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(Either $\frac{1}{2}d.$ each, or $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ bound per dozen, at the
option of the importer.)

2. Malt	1 5 — per quarter.
3. Hops, till December, 1860	2 5 — per cwt.
From January 1, to December 31, 1861	1 — — , ,
Thereafter	— 15 — , ,
4. Plate, gold	— 17 0 per oz. troy.
, , silver	— 1 6 , ,
5. Playing Cards	— 15 0 per doz. packs.
6. Dice	1 1 — per pair.

“ N.B.—Properly speaking the duty on spirits ought to be placed in this list,
as it is now virtually the same as the Excise duty on home made spirits.

XI.—*Pepper.*

1. Pepper	— — 6 per lb.
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XII.—*Terminable Duties.*

1. Hats and Bonnets (till March 31, 1861)	— 1 3 , ,
2. Corks (cut), till March 31, 1862	— — 3 , ,

“ N.B.—Besides the above, one penny per package, or other unit of entry
(usually about one quarter per cent. on the value), is levied on all important
articles except corn and timber; one shilling and sixpence on every export bill of
lading; one-eighth per cent. addition to the duty on all tobacco delivered from
bonded warehouses; and one quarter per cent. on all other goods so delivered.”

* (Except Rice, which is free.)

II.—New Indian Loan of £3,000,000, February, 1861.

THE following letter to the *Times*, dated from the Temple, 4th February, 1861, explains very clearly the present position of the recent Indian Loans:—

“As the public is about to be called upon to subscribe a further sum of 3,000,000*l.* for the purposes of the Indian Government, it may be well to place before them the exact position of the present debt, so far as it has been affected by recent legislation. There would seem to be the greater reason for so doing, as you have recently drawn attention to the questionable way in which a large addition has been made to the stock created in 1859, which goes by the name of the Indian Five per cent. loan.

“By the 21st and 22nd of Victoria, cap. 3 (1858), power was granted to raise 8,000,000*l.* by the *issue of debentures* for a fixed period, repayable at par, which power was exercised to the full extent.

“By the 22nd of Victoria, cap. 11, further power was granted to raise 7,000,000*l.* by a similar *issue of debentures*, and this power was also exercised to the full extent.

“By the 22nd and 23rd of Victoria, cap. 39 (1859), further power was granted to raise 5,000,000*l.* either by the *issue of debentures* as before, or by the creation of *capital stock*, repayable also at par at a fixed period. The latter course was adopted, and the stock created under the powers of the Act is that which is known as the *Indian Five per cent. loan*.

“These three Acts all contained a power to raise, by any of the modes therein authorized, funds out of which to repay the loans raised under them as they might become due, but limited in each to the amounts respectively raised by virtue of any of the powers respectively granted.

“By the 23rd of Victoria, cap. 5, power was granted to raise in *such capital stock*, funds out of which to repay any *East India Bonds* (as distinguished from any bonds or debentures issued under the powers of the several Acts before-mentioned) that might from time to time be lodged for repayment by the holders, on their giving the usual twelve months' notice. Under the powers of this Act an addition of more than 3,000,000*l.* has been made to the amount of capital stock originally created, in consequence of *India Bonds* to that amount having been sent in for payment and exchanged for stock, and it is evident that it is susceptible of increase to the whole amount of the floating Indian debt known as *East India Bonds*. Such a power may or may not be exercised in practice to the full extent, but it undoubtedly exists.

“By the 23rd and 24th of Victoria, cap. 130 (1860), power was granted to raise 3,000,000*l.*, which power it is now proposed to exercise by the creation of additional *capital stock* to that amount, and for which the public are invited to tender on Friday next.

“The figures, therefore, will stand thus:—Original issue of capital stock under the 22nd and 23rd of Victoria, cap. 39, 5,000,000*l.*; addition made to ditto under the 23rd of Victoria, cap. 5, 3,079,000*l.*; addition now to be made to ditto under the 23rd and 24th of Victoria, cap. 130, 3,000,000*l.*; probable addition to ditto by repayment of debentures within the next two or three years, under the 22nd and 23rd of Victoria, cap. 39 (viz., 8,000,000*l.* and 7,000,000*l.*), 15,000,000*l.*, making a total of 26,079,000*l.* And this amount is subject to a contingent increase at any time by conversion of *East India Bonds* in addition to the above amount already converted of 3,079,000*l.*”

The following is the result of the biddings for the 3,000,000*l.* on Friday, 9th February, 1861.

“It appears that the total amount of the tenders for the 3,000,000*l.* Indian loan was 13,270,800*l.*, of which about 6,000,000*l.* was at prices at and above the

minimum fixed by the Council—98½—and about 7,000,000*l.* below it. None of the tenders at the *minimum* have been successful, the lowest tender accepted in full being at 98*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*, while of tenders for 681,000*l.* at 98*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*, the proportion to be taken is only 108,200*l.* Of the remainder the principal portion was at prices ranging between 98 and 98½. These circumstances indicate that a majority of the bidders were less sanguine than the India Council, and that an insufficient estimate had been formed of the feeling in favour of the loan among the general public.”

III.—*Effect of Trades Unions in Victoria (Australia), and of frequent Political Changes in New South Wales.*

THE following important article is from the *Melbourne Argus* of November, 1860:—

trades “It is generally understood that for some weeks past the actual rates of *wages paid to artisans* connected with the *building trades* have been far below the nominal quotations; and that contracts have been taken by associated operatives at prices which will not enable them to earn more than from six shillings to eight shillings per day. Convinced of the impolicy of endeavouring to maintain an arbitrary and unvarying scale of remuneration, the attempt has been quietly abandoned by numbers of sensible mechanics, and considerable secessions are said to have taken place from those societies which were established partly with a view to exempt (as it was imagined) the wages of skilled labour from those fluctuations to which every other commodity is subjected. The more sagacious of the artisans are beginning to perceive that the policy into which they were beguiled by their shallow advisers defeated the very object it was designed to promote, and that, by insisting upon an artificial maximum of wages, they reduced employment to a minimum. Only such works as were absolutely necessary were engaged in by capitalists; and while a few men obtained occupation at extreme rates, numbers failed to obtain any employment whatever, and were thrown for support upon the charity of their fellow-workmen. Nor did the evil end here. Reports were transmitted to Europe of the paucity of work and the destitute circumstances of those who were compulsorily idle, and such reports very naturally operated to the prejudice of the colony and lessened the number of unassisted emigrants who selected Victoria as their destination. With no material additions to our population from external resources, there was no inducement for capitalists to build, no expansion of our seaport towns, no growth of trade, and no extension of settlement in the interior, such as immigration promotes in Canada and the United States.

“The inevitable result has been that those who were most active in their efforts to impede the operation of natural laws, and to establish a sort of Fool’s Paradise in Victoria, have been first to pay the penalty of their own short-sightedness and folly. *Wages have actually fallen far below the rates which would have invited the outlay of capital a short time since, and men are secretly accepting one-half, and even one-third of the rates which are ostensibly current.* Nor shall we be surprised to find the more right-thinking of the operative classes, after having relinquished the delusive notion that an unalterable standard of wages can be insisted upon at a time when the prices of all articles and the profits of all trades are gravitating towards a lower level, rejecting likewise the equally fallacious expectation that a young country can make rapid progress without a constant influx of population from without; and we shall be prepared to find our skilled artisans becoming the most important solicitors for a revival of assisted immigration.

“The worst misfortune which befalls artisans, both in the mother-country and in these colonies, is the credulous faith which they repose in selfish and designing advisers of their own class, and the jealousy and distrust with which they regard the disinterested advice tendered by those who can have no motive to mislead and

no temptation to misinform. The well-paid secretary, who urges persistence in a ruinous strike, sustained by funds which afford him a handsome salary, is looked up to as an authority and accepted as a guide ; but the journalist or other person who suggests that wages should be left to rise and fall according to the demand and supply of labour, and who ventures to point out that a man may be really better off with ten shillings per diem at the present moment than he was with sixteen shillings a-day a twelvemonth ago, is accused of a desire to grind the faces of the poor and to convert independent workmen into abject serfs.

" It is too much, perhaps, to expect from the associated trades a candid acknowledgment of the error they have committed in endeavouring to maintain an artificially high rate of wages, and a frank declaration of their determination to abstain from any such mischievous intermeddling for the future ; but we think that the interests of the operative classes would be effectually promoted if our skilled artisans were to abandon the inconsistent line of conduct which they now pursue in openly prescribing one scale of remuneration and secretly adopting another.

" If skilled labourers would invite the flow of that capital which is now accumulating in its various reservoirs into those channels which would furnish employment to artisans, *they should publicly signify, what they privately exhibit,* their willingness to accept a rate of wages regulated by the circumstances of the times and the alteration which has taken place in the value of money, as exchangeable against every other commodity. With meat at 2d. and 3d. a-pound, bread at 10d. the four-pound loaf, fresh butter at 1s. 2d. a-pound, and most descriptions of fruit and garden produce cheap and plentiful, the condition of the mechanic in Victoria, *earning from two to three pounds a-week,* is far preferable to that of tens of thousands of highly-educated men in Europe. *Rent,* it is true, is too high here ; but that circumstance is partly attributable to the high rates of wages hitherto prevalent ; and a reduction in these will be followed by a fall in those, inasmuch as the houses which will hereafter be erected by cheaper labour, will enter into competition for tenants with those dwellings which are now extant, and the rental of which will have to be assimilated to that of the less costly and more convenient structures of a later date.

" There is another aspect in which this question ought to be considered by the operative classes. So long as the general public are under the impression that the wages of artisans in the building trades range *from fourteen to sixteen shillings per diem,* and so long as contractors know that they can engage men at *from six to eight,* the chances are that the contractor absorbs a larger share of the profit of the work executed than he is fairly entitled to, and workmen incur the odium of keeping up high prices and preventing building operations being more extensively undertaken, without in reality meriting the censure or enjoying the compensating emolument. A trader who habitually asks one price for his commodities, and takes another, is usually avoided by all except customers who are fond of haggling ; and the artisan who adopts similar tactics may depend upon it that he does himself a great injury by interrupting that freedom of exchange between capital and labour which enables him to secure the best price for the industry and skill which he has to dispose of."

The *Australian Gazette* (London) of 9th February, 1861, gives the following facts relative to the recent rapid political changes in *New South Wales*:

" For the present we would deal with the case of *New South Wales*, and the history of the last five years will afford abundant evidence that something is required for the purpose of giving increased stability to the Local Government. The *first Parliament* under the new constitution, or Responsible Government, as it is termed, met on the 22nd of May, 1856. The then Ministry of Mr. Donaldson continued in office until the 21st of August following, when they resigned upon a motion being carried against them by a majority of two. The next Ministry, under Mr. Cowper, met on the 15th of September, and on the 25th—or nine days after-

wards—a vote of want of confidence having been carried, they too resigned. On the 28th October, a third administration was formed, and continued in office until the 4th of September of the following year, 1857, when, having been defeated on the ‘Elections’ Bill,’ they followed the steps of their predecessors. A fourth Ministry was formed on the 7th of September, and on the 17th of December, after being beaten on a Government bill for the assessment of stock, a dissolution of Parliament took place. The New House assembled on the 24th of March, 1858; on the passing of the Electoral Bill a second appeal to the country took place, and on the 11th of April, a second dissolution ensued. On the 20th of October following, the Ministers resigned, after sustaining a defeat by a majority of 57 to 8 upon the Education Bill. A fifth Government was formed, which, in its turn, was displaced on the 1st of March, 1860, by a want of confidence. With the present, or rather the late Ministry, there was a further collision in November, 1860, which will no doubt end in a resignation—a dissolution having been already ordered. So that in New South Wales there has been, in the short period of *five years and six months*, not less than *four general elections and five ministries*.

“The consequence of this state of things is, however, that which we have most to deplore. Men of ability and experience have abandoned the arena of politics, and now neither guide the Legislature by their counsels nor aid it by their experience. The ablest men retire disgusted from the management of public affairs, and seek, either in private life in the colony, or in other countries, protection from these violent attacks of party strife and angry politicians. Of the *twenty-six* gentlemen who have held office since 1856 in *New South Wales* only *ten* are now in Parliament; of these four are in the Upper House and six are found in the ranks of opposition. Two others are in England, six have retired into private life, and the remainder are dead. Of the *fifty-four members* who composed the *first House* under responsible Government *nineteen* only were in the last Parliament, and of these only four supported the Government in the measure upon which they were defeated. What would be thought of a House of Commons if, at the present moment, its members consisted of not more than one-third of those who were members four years since, and if among these there were found only one-fifth who gave their support to the present Government? Yet such is the actual state of things in *New South Wales* at the present moment, and we confess to serious misgivings as to the result of the appeal to the country which is now taking place.

“‘Universal suffrage,’ as it has been truly stated by the leading journal in Sydney, ‘has given superiority of political power to the moveable population;’ and this is not all, for the working of that suffrage has tended to depress the character of the Legislative Assembly. Colonists who knew what was the character of legislative men of former times are, it is said ‘painfully impressed’ with the ‘deterioration’ which has taken place. The facility with which men obtain the confidence of the electors is a point to which we have upon various occasions alluded when commenting upon the state of things in Victoria, and in the elder colony of New South Wales the same extraordinary credulity or ‘gullibility’ appears to exist in the minds of the people. ‘Men,’ says the *Sydney Morning Herald*, ‘who have never in social or political life performed any service to the country, whose education is of the meanest kind, who would not be trusted in any position demanding either intelligence or integrity,—men who promise largely, who denounce unsparingly, who pledge and promise without reserve whatever may seem to benefit the masses, however impossible,’ are those who succeed in gaining the confidence and the suffrages of the electors.”

IV.—*Bank Failures in the United States in November, 1860, consequent on the Secession Movement.*

THE following paragraph from the *Times*, of 6th December, 1860, contains an outline of the earlier statements which reached this country as regards the financial effect in the United States of the great Secession Schism, occasioned by the election of Mr. Lincoln, as President, in October 1860 :—

“ The private telegrams from New York to-day, with six days' later news, show already a considerable recovery in the stock market. Erie had further advanced from 28 to 31, New York Central from 73 to 76½, and Illinois Central from 55 to 58. The banks also were discounting freely, having agreed to protect each other by making common cause with their stock of bullion. The accounts, however, of the rates of exchange are rather of a confused character. One telegram says the quotation was not higher than 103, notwithstanding all the efforts of the banks; another says that the range was from 100 to 107, and another that bills were still almost unsaleable. If the price of 100 was only for inferior descriptions, and 107 was the charge for bankers' draughts, then there would be no advantage on gold from this side except in cases where persons might be willing to run risks.

“ The announcement of the bank failures, so far as regards those in the *Southern States*, has, of course, created no surprise, as the advices by the ‘ Atlantic’ had mentioned that nearly the whole of these establishments were likely to break down. The correctness of the statement that the Philadelphia banks have all stopped, is open to great doubt. Pennsylvania, although the nearest to the line of Slave States, is not likely to have suffered much more than the other Northern States from the political alarm, and it is hard to suppose that her banking system has become so unsound that the whole of the twenty banks at *Philadelphia*, representing an aggregate capital of 2,400,000*l.*, can have been forced to an instantaneous stoppage. Among the twenty banks of that city, there is one called the Philadelphia Bank, with a capital of 360,000*l.*, and possibly this establishment only may be intended. The largest bank in the city is the Farmers' and Mechanics', with a capital of 400,000*l.*

“ At *Washington* there are three banks—the Bank of the Metropolis, the Patriotic Bank, and the Bank of Washington, and, possibly, here also it is only the Bank of Washington that is referred to. Their respective capitals are small, averaging about 60,000*l.*, and their note circulation is about 40,000*l.* At the other points, doubtless, the suspension has been general.

“ At *Baltimore*, in Maryland, there are seventeen banks, with a total capital of 2,100,000*l.*, and an aggregate note circulation of 600,000*l.*, the largest of them being the Merchants' Bank, with a capital of 300,000*l.*

“ At Norfolk, in *Virginia*, there are three banks—the Bank of Virginia, with a capital of 40,000*l.*; the Exchange Bank, with 80,000*l.*; and the Farmers', with 60,000*l.* In the entire state of *Virginia* the banking capital is large, the number of establishments being sixty-eight, and the total capital 3,670,000*l.* With the exception, however, of the Farmers' Bank of *Richmond*, reported by the previous steamer, those above mentioned are the only *Virginia* ones yet announced.

“ At *Charleston*, South Carolina, there are nine banks, with an aggregate capital of 1,375,000*l.*, and a circulation probably of about 800,000*l.* In this city, however, according to the present telegram, the banks have only ‘ partially stopped payment.’

“ Of course, as regards the Northern States and the bullion crisis, the difficulty will be more speedily terminated in proportion as the Southern Bank suspensions are more general, since, when a stoppage has taken place, there are no more struggles for a supply of specie. The vital question will be as to the ability of the *New Orleans banks*, their total capital being nearly 5,000,000*l.*, with a note circulation of 2,000,000*l.* It has usually been their practice to keep a strong

supply of specie, and, as the disunion movement does not seem to have been so strong in Louisiana as in some of the other states, there is an expectation that in that quarter they may be able to support themselves."

V.—*Preventible Mortality in Lancashire and elsewhere.—Statement by Mr. Edwin Chadwick.*

THE following important passage is taken from the very able address of Mr. Edwin Chadwick before the Public Health Section of the Social Science Meeting at Glasgow, in September last (1860).

" Being impressed with the extent of evil affecting the labouring classes, developed in the course of their investigations, the common elements of which are unknown or unattended to, the foreign members of the International Statistical Congress which recently met in London, composed chiefly of men holding high permanent deliberative or executive offices under their respective governments, amongst whom were M. Quetelet and M. Visschers, of Belgium, M. Legoyt, of France—in all, fifty delegates—signed a declaration in the following terms, to which they requested the signature of Miss Florence Nightingale at their head:—‘The Congress commends to the attention of statesmen, of economists, of philanthropists, and of administrators the study of the general condition of the labouring classes, of their wants, of their resources, and of the measures for the promotion of their welfare.’

" I will not stay to comment on the fact of the elements affecting the condition of the great mass of the prominent labouring classes being declared by such high international authorities to be at this time really a new subject of study, as for practical purposes it will be found to be; but I will refer to recent speech of an eminent political leader, made on the occasion of the foundation of a ragged school in our chief manufacturing county, in which speech he congratulated the meeting on its vast progress in physical improvement of the people, of their comforts and their clothing, as a consequence of the increase of manufacturing and commercial prosperity. ‘Nor is there,’ he said, ‘any more certain test than the rapid increase of a population, of the physical well-being of a country.’ I should have been very glad if in official reports this proposition were not proved to be wholly erroneous in its unrestrained generality, and were it not proved to be so in respect to that particular county, Lancashire, where you may frequently see similar congratulatory expressions from persons of opposite political persuasions. But it should have presented itself for inquiry, why, with so much material progress, are masses of children there, ragged and in a state of destitution, claiming the aid of charity? Mr. Edward Tuffnell, who has the superintendence of the reformatories, reports that *sixty-five per cent.* of the children found there are *orphans*. And whence this mass of orphanage? and, in Liverpool and Manchester, an excessive mass of *widowhood*, as shown by the reports, corresponding with the excessive death-rates there? The answer given on investigation is, that it arises mainly from the excess of *preventible mortality from typhus, dysentery, and other filth diseases*, which are banished from common lodging-houses, but which are rife in the cesspool-tainted houses in which the operatives are crowded, to be near their work, and for which they pay enormously high rents, on account of the monopoly of the positions.

" The members of the International Statistical Congress would recognize the fact, that a *death-rate* represents the relative amount and sum of human suffering, and is one of the best tests of the physical progress of a country. In population, as well as manufacturing prosperity, the progress of Lancashire has been the highest, and yet the physical condition of its whole population, as determined by

that test, and especially of the working population, is really the *lowest*. Recent statistics, showing the condition of the different classes of the population, have been applied for, and have not been obtained; but from the present state of the general death-rate, it may be confidently averred that their relative position has little changed. The following statistical return, which I gave in my report on the sanitary condition of the labouring population of Great Britain, and which was confirmed by the subsequent investigations of Dr. Lyon Playfair in Lancashire, shows the relative sanitary condition of such *rural districts* as those from whence the strength of the country is drawn, as contrasted with the effects of the insanitary conditions of *towns* where it is absorbed:—

Average Age of Death.

	In Manchester.	In Wiltshire.
	Years.	Years.
Professional persons and gentry, with their families....	38	50
Tradesmen and their families (in Wiltshire, farmers } and graziers are included with shopkeepers)..... }	20	48
Mechanics, (agricultural) labourers and their families	17	33

“ Towns which were formerly in the relative sanitary condition probably that rural towns are now in, which have much open space, have, as Dr. Lyon Playfair shows, deteriorated in the physical condition of their population; and how should it be otherwise for high wages will not ward off the effects of confinement in crowded and heated factories, which are ill-ventilated; nor sleeping at night in close, ill-ventilated rooms, in an atmosphere which is a compound of that of a chimney and a privy. Indeed, it is a matter of experience, that when manufacturing prosperity has had a check, and the workmen are thrown out of employment in large numbers, the fever wards of the hospitals of the manufacturing towns are immediately thinned, and this for the simple reason, that the men are out of the crowded rooms, and, though living on less and simpler food, they are at large in the less impure air of the open streets.

“ Dr. Lyon Playfair reported that—‘The great *infantile* mortality occurs, for the most part, among the poorer part of the population, as is seen from an examination of the return from Preston:—

Gentry	18 per cent. of deaths under 5.	
Tradesmen	36	”
Operatives	55	”

This may account in a great measure, for the following very startling table, drawn up by Mr. Cartwright. It will be observed, that while in 1783 the *average age of death* was 31 years in Preston, and the percentage of *infantile mortality* 29 per cent., the average age of the same town at the present time is reduced to 19½ years, in proportion to the increase of population.

“ Similar results attend the examination of the parochial registers of other towns. Thus, I find, by an analysis of the registration books of St. Nicholas Church, in Liverpool, that a *diminution* of the average age of death has occurred: from 1784 to 1810 the mean age at death varies from 24 to 26 years; but during the last seven years it varies from 17 to 20 years.”

Table showing the Average Age of Death of all Classes in Liverpool from 1784 to 1810, and in the Years 1841-2.

		1784-1810.	1841-2.	
		Years.	Years.	
Gentry	43	43		
Tradesmen	23½	19		
Operatives	18½	16		
All classes	25	20		

" The like proportions will be found to prevail in other manufacturing towns. The lives of the *adult workmen* there are also relatively shortened, and Dr. Lyon Playfair, after giving a table showing this, thus recapitulates some of the results in physical deterioration in Lancashire, such as now goes on in our manufacturing towns in general:—

" The table gives the general result, that there are every year in Lancashire 14,000 *deaths* and 398,000 *cases of sickness*, which might be prevented; and that 11,000 of the deaths consist of adults engaged in productive labour. It further shows that every individual in Lancashire loses *nineteen years*, or nearly one-half of the proper term of his life; and that every adult loses more than ten years of life, and from premature old age and sickness much more than that period of working ability. Without taking into consideration the diminution of the physical and mental energies of the survivors, from sickness and other depressing causes: without estimating the loss from the substitution of young and inexperienced labour for that which is skilful and productive; without including the heavy burdens incident to the large amount of preventible widowhood and orphanage; without calculating the loss, from the excess of births, resulting from the excess of deaths, or the cost of maintenance of an infantile population, nearly one-half of which is swept off before it attains two years of age, and about 59 per cent. of which never become adult productive labourers; and with data, in every case, much below the truth,—I estimate the *actual pecuniary burden* borne by the community, in the support of *removeable disease and death*, in Lancashire alone, at the annual sum of *five millions of pounds sterling*. I would draw attention to the columns representing the numbers of preventible cases of death and sickness in Liverpool and Manchester, or in any other of the large towns, to show the immense amount of misery which might be saved by proper sanitary arrangements.

" " It has been stated," Dr. Playfair continues, ' by Mr. Chadwick, that the annual slaughter, from one disease alone—typhus—a disease which formerly raged in, but is now banished, as an epidemic, from our prisons and our navies, is greater in England and Wales than the loss sustained by the allied armies at the battle of Waterloo. Yet what sort of battle do we here find fought and won by preventible disease against the population of the county of Lancaster? The labouring population of this county have always supplied a large contingent to the armies of the country. It furnished the strength of the army which fought at Flodden; and Cromwell, speaking of his Lancaster regiment, said, finer soldiers were never seen on a battle-field. The Guards, until recently, were largely recruited from Lancashire. What would be thought of a war in which 5,000 of the able-bodied men of one county fell every year in battle?—and yet this is only one-half the number annually slaughtered in that county by removeable epidemics! Yet this annual loss of able-bodied men, so much greater than the most cruel of known wars in modern times, is scarcely more severe than the loss sustained by the continued physical deterioration of the survivors. It was a matter of constant complaint to me, by the recruiting officers in the various districts of the county, that the sons are less tall than their fathers; and that the difficulty is constantly increasing of obtaining tall and able-bodied men.

" ' I found the indications of recruiting officers often shrewd and useful; but, without one exception, they complained of the difficulty of getting men 'to pass the surgeon' in this county. As an example, I may adduce the evidence of Sergeant Farrell, of the 47th Regiment:—

" ' Have you long been engaged in the recruiting service?'

" ' For nearly ten years.'

" ' Do you find it equally easy to recruit in Lancashire now as formerly?'

" ' Where I could get *ten recruits* *formerly*, that I could venture to send up, I can now only get one, and that one is often rejected. Out of seven I got lately, only one passed.'

" ' Do you think that this difficulty arises from people getting better wages at factories than in the army?'

" ' No, not at all. When persons go to work so soon, they do not grow up to be the proper size, they have always some deformity, and in the towns, somehow or other, they are pale, sickly, and thin in flesh. The only place where I can get good men is from the country districts.'

" ' What reason does the surgeon assign for refusing the men you send from the towns?'

" ' For being too thin, not being round-chested, and not standing straight.'

" ' From what towns do you find it most easy to procure good men?'

" ' I have been only in Yorkshire, Somersetshire, and Bristol. In Yorkshire there are some good men, better than I have found in Lancashire, but they are by far the best in Somerset. In that and other country districts I could easily get good men; but here, in Rochdale, there is almost no use in staying. I have only been able to pick out thirty good-looking men for the last eighteen months, and out of these only one was passed by the surgeon for every four rejected.'

" Dr. Lyon Playfair continues:— Through the politeness of the head recruiting officer of the Liverpool district, which includes Lancashire, Cheshire, and parts of Shropshire, Derby, North Wales, and Staffordshire, I have obtained returns of the number of persons sent up from various districts, and rejected as unfit for service. The total number sent for inspection from all the districts to the staff surgeon in Liverpool, between the 1st of January, 1843, to 31st October, 1843, was 1,560, of which 876 were approved, 684 being rejected. In Liverpool, during the same time, 930 were presented for examination, 439, or 47 per cent being rejected.'

" There has been one check to the rapid physical deterioration in the manufacturing districts, in respect to the overworking of children, which I shall subsequently notice. But it is right to state that the insanitary conditions are attended with moral as well as physical deterioration; crime following most closely those conditions, where there is a perception of the short duration of life, and where the appetites for immediate enjoyment amongst the ill-educated and ill-trained are strong and reckless. Thus, taking the counties in the order of their sanitary condition—those first where the *death-rates are the lowest*—and dividing them into groups, the relative proportions of crime to each ten thousand of the population are as follows:—

	Proportion of Crimes of Violence and Passion.	Proportion of Crimes against Property with Violence and Malice.	Proportion of Crimes against the Public Peace.	All Other Crimes.
The fourteen <i>least unhealthy</i> counties	40	1·00	.90	13·69
The fourteen <i>intermediate</i> counties	60	1·73	1·60	15·51
The fourteen <i>least healthy</i> counties	66	1·69	2·50	17·75
Let us take the two extreme single counties :—				
The <i>most healthy</i> county } (Westmoreland).....	17	1·71	2·47	2·48
The <i>most unhealthy</i> county } with the highest manufacturing prosperity and wages (Lancashire)	61	1·91	4·17	20·27

" The *average age of death* of all who arrived at the adult stage was in Westmoreland, 58 years and 10 months; whilst in all Lancashire, that is to say, including also all the agricultural population of the county, it was 50 years and 2 months.

" The identity of the seats of disease and physical deterioration with the seats of moral deterioration and of crime, in the midst of manufacturing prosperity, was displayed in the Report on Preston to the Health of Towns Commissioners by the late Rev. Mr. Clay, the chaplain of the County Gaol at Preston; and the effect of sanitary measures in the reduction of crime is shown by Mr. May, of the Town Clerk's Office, Macclesfield, in the paper printed in the transactions of the Association, giving an account of the first effects of sanitary measures in that town. Worthy persons in Lancashire, who have done much for the improvement of the working classes themselves, but generalising hastily from particular instances, have, in political speeches and papers, boasted of the progress of the population, and a relative superiority in intelligence: the answer to which is, the fact of their low physical condition, and the continued disregard of the expositions for the removal of the causes. But what do we find the actual general intellectual position of the county to be in reality? According to the last of the returns of the Registrar-General, whilst the proportions of persons signing the marriage registers with marks only, were, in all England—males, 27·7 per cent.; females, 38·8 per cent.;—in Lancashire it was—males, 30 per cent.; females, 56 per cent. The progress of education, in the reduction of the number of marksmen to these yet high proportions, has been less than one per cent. per annum, so that at the present rate it will take more than half a century to fit the female population to impart to their children the lowest elements of education. In the adjacent district of the West Riding, which follows in manufacturing prosperity, Leeds has a death-rate of 30 in a 1,000, with an infantile slaughter before the attainment of their fifth year of half of all born; and what is its real educational position and progress? In 1839, the proportion of females married, who could not write their own names, was 52 per cent.; in 1857, it was still 50 per cent.

" Whilst, then, in the county most referred to for physical progression, we find the proof, when examined, of a vastly increased population, and high prosperity and high wages, is attended with excessive physical and moral deteriorations;—in Ireland there was the example of an increase of population attended with—poverty,—and under insanitary conditions, physical deteriorations. Thus, in four counties of

Ireland where the increase of the population was the greatest—there, where 61 per cent. of the habitations were mud hovels, having only one room—there the annual proportion of deaths from epidemic diseases was 47·8 per cent., and the average age of death was only 26 years and 8 months; whilst in the four counties where the rate of increase of population was only one-half, where there were only 29 per cent. of single-roomed mud-hovel habitations; there the deaths from epidemic disease were 35·5 per cent., and the average age of death 33 years and 4 months. As amidst our English town populations, heaped together in single rooms, so in the four counties where the labouring classes are living in the greatest proportion in single-roomed mud hovels, and where there is the largest increase of population, there also there is corresponding moral deterioration, and just double the average of crimes of violence and of passion.

" It is right to state, in relation to these instances, to guard against erroneous political speculation, that in New York and other American cities, the insanitary conditions and overcrowding is often as great; as also, according to the information I have received, the death-rates and the physical deterioration, although population and wages increase even more rapidly than in our manufacturing districts. Thus, Mr. William Chambers states:—' In New York there is a place called the Five Points, a kind of St. Giles's; and here, and in some other quarters of this great city, you see and hear of a sink of vice and misery resembling the more squalid and dissolute parts of Liverpool or Glasgow. For this the stranger is not prepared by the accounts he has received of the condition of affairs in America. Wages of manual labour, a dollar to two dollars a-day. Servants, labourers, mechanics, wanted. The rural districts crying for hands to assist in clearing and cultivating the ground. Land to be had for the the merest trifle. The franchise, too, that much-coveted boon, offered to all. From whatever cause it may originate, New York is beginning to experience the serious pressure of a vicious and impoverished class. Prisons, hospitals, asylums, juvenile reformatory, almshouses, houses of refuge, and an expensive, though strangely ineffective police, are the apparatus employed to keep matters within bounds. The governors of a cluster of penal and beneficial institutions report that in 1852 they expended 465,109 dollars in administering relief to 80,357 persons. Passing over any notice of the many thousands, including crowds of recently arrived immigrants, assisted by other associations, we have here a number equal to one in seven of the population coming under review as criminals or paupers in the course of the year—a most extraordinary thing to be said of any place in a country which offers such boundless opportunities for gaining a respectable subsistence.'

" In this, and in other American cities, the conditions of such districts are as little known as our own to the more respectable classes of inhabitants, and the terms of the resolution of the International Statistical Congress would be applicable to a greater extent than might be conceived. When we sent inspectors from the General Board of Health, upon petitions, to examine the sanitary conditions of towns, one of the instructions we gave them was, that they should endeavour to get mayors, town councillors, and particularly those who were opposed to the introduction of the law, to accompany them in their inspections. In our report laid before Parliament, we thus referred to these inspections:—' A further common and important feature observed in the local inspections has been the discovery, by the chief inhabitants, or those holding leading local position and office, who accompanied the inspector in his perambulation, how little they themselves knew of the real condition of their own town, or of those portions of it which are occupied by the majority of the inhabitants. The places properly designated as 'fever nests' the seats of epidemics, it appeared had never been visited by them, and were almost as much unknown to them as any foreign territory which they had never seen. On these occasions they frequently acknowledged frankly, that they had been, until then, entirely unaware of the condition of the places visited. The town clerk of one town, writing to the inspector, states, that they were unaware, until his visit and report, what the condition of their town really was.'
